



**Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Leslie Shechter Newman**

NEWS RELEASE

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Division of Consumer Affairs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL STOPS ANOTHER ILLEGAL LAW PRACTICE TARGETING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY MEMBERS

A Rutherford County resident allegedly doing legal work without a license for several members of the Laotian immigrant community in La Vergne has been ordered to stop the unlawful business and to pay restitution to consumers.

The State takes all allegations of the unauthorized practice of law very seriously, said Attorney General Bob Cooper, who pursued the case on behalf of Mary Clement, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

Today's judgment was handed down after Mountry failed to respond to the State's complaint served on Jan. 11 and a subsequent motion on March 7. Neither Mountry nor counsel for Mountry appeared at the hearing today.

The lawsuit alleged that Christopher Mountry, also known as Ott Mountry, told consumers he could help them with immigration, divorce, disability issues and legal problems. Mountry allegedly claimed he could provide members of the Laotian immigrant community with Social Security cards, green cards, work permits and driver's licenses. Victims complained that Mountry often mentioned he had professional connections in Memphis who could help expedite citizenship, which was untrue.

Chancellor Robert E. Corlew III granted the State's default judgment ordering Mountry to pay restitution totaling \$5,302 and over \$25,000 in civil penalties and fees to the State.

If you paid Christopher Mountry, also known as Ott Mountry, for services, please contact the Tennessee Attorney General's Office at (615) 741-1671 or toll-free at 1-877-275-7396. The State is still trying to determine how many consumers may have paid Mountry for services he allegedly did not provide.

Director Mary Clement encourages Tennesseans in need of an attorney to confirm the attorney is in good standing and licensed to practice law in the state of Tennessee by contacting the Board of Professional Responsibility at (615) 361-7500.

To see a copy of the State's filings, go to www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us and then click on Office Information and Cases of Interest.